



## U.S. Department of Justice

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### NEWS RELEASE

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United States Attorney Paul J. McNulty and the Office of the Inspector General (OIG), Department of Defense (DoD), announced the sentencing today in U.S. District Court in Alexandria of Raymond Paul Steigerwalt, a 21-year old Indiana resident and former member of the Thr34t Krew international hacking group. Steigerwalt was sentenced to 21 months incarceration and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$12,000 to the Department of Defense. He pled guilty on January 21, 2005, to one count of Conspiracy to Commit Fraud and Related Activity in Connection with Computers and one count of Possession of Child Pornography.

Between October 2002 to March 2003 Steigerwalt was a member of the Thr34t Krew (TK), an Internet group devoted to hacking. TK conspirators created a computer worm to spread across the Internet and install Trojan software, i.e. software that masqueraded as legitimate software, but allowed Steigerwalt and other co-conspirators to remotely control infected computers. The TK created the worm to self-propagate and would use computers connected to the Internet to command and control the computers infected by the worm with the Trojan software. At least two computers belonging to the Department of Defense were infected and damaged by the worm. Between October 2002 and March 7, 2003, the TK commanded computers infected by the worm to disconnect other computers that were connected to the Internet. Furthermore, Steigerwalt was found in knowing possession of computer image files which contained a visual depiction of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

The Defense Criminal Investigative Service (the criminal investigative arm of the OIG, DoD), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, Riverside County California Sheriff's Office, United States Secret Service, Air Force Office of Special Investigations, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Office of Inspector General conducted this investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephanie Bibighaus handled the prosecution of this case.

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